

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked up version of each amended claim.

B1 1. (Amended) An apparatus for casting a structure comprising:

a vertically parted sand mold assembly having a first side pattern defining a first impression and a second side pattern defining a second impression, at least one of said side patterns defining a pouring basin communicating with a sprue, and at least one of said side patterns having a core, the core defining an imprint surface and an aperture that is configured to function as a gate which fluidly couples the pouring basin to a cavity formed by the first and second impressions.

B2 24. (Amended) An apparatus for casting a scroll component comprising:

a vertically parted sand mold assembly having a first side pattern defining a first impression and a second side pattern defining a second impression, at least one of said side patterns defining a pouring basin communicating with a sprue, and at least one of said side patterns having a core, the core defining an involute imprint surface and an aperture that is configured to function as a gate, the aperture fluidly couples the pouring basin to a cavity formed by the first and second impressions.

33 34. (Amended) A method of casting a scroll component comprising the steps of:

providing a mold having a vertical parting line and a first and second side mold, at least one of said side molds defining a pouring basin communicating with a sprue, the second side mold having a core, the core has an imprint surface and defines an aperture therethrough, the core further defining a back splash;

providing a fusible plug in the aperture; and

providing molten metal into the pouring basin.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein providing a fusible plug in the aperture, includes providing a fusible plug in the aperture which reduces the velocity of the molten metal entering the aperture.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein providing a fusible plug in the aperture, includes providing an inoculant.